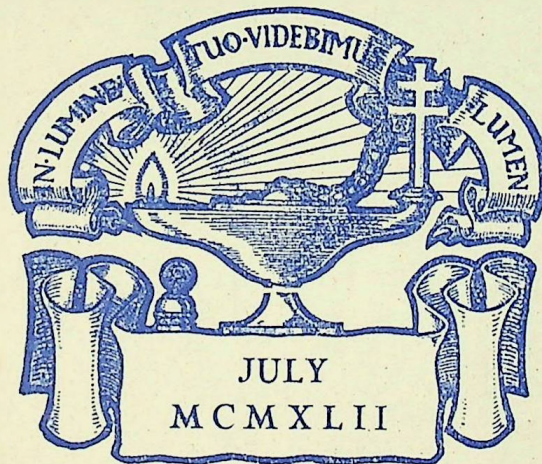
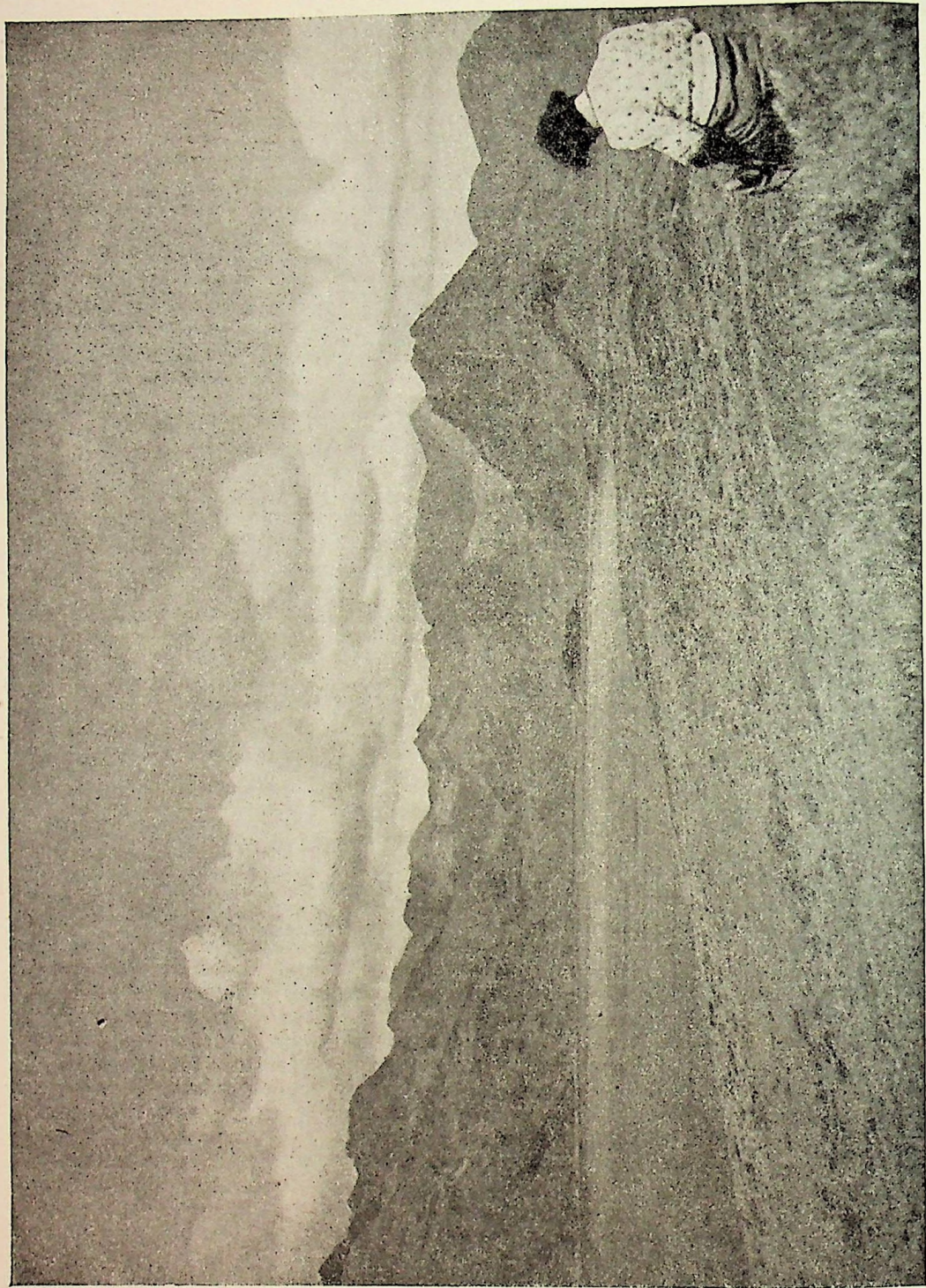


TOC H JOURNAL



PUBLISHED BY TOC H FROM ITS HEADQUARTERS, AT
FORTY-SEVEN, FRANCIS STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

THREEPENCE



SCOTTISH SUMMER : THE CULLIN HILLS FROM ELGOL, ISLE OF SKYE.
(Photo. by E. S. Tompkins).

TOC H JOURNAL

VOL. XX

JULY, 1942

No. 7

TARGET FOR TO-DAY

This article, reprinted from the Maidenhead Advertiser of April 22, will inform new readers—and remind old members—of the purpose of Toc H in simplest terms.

TOC H is an adventure in the art of living.

It is trying to help in the building of a better world, not only for those of us here to-day (and possibly gone to-morrow!), but also for future generations. We believe that this can only be achieved when mankind realises the purpose for which it has been sent into this world. It is, therefore, the aim of Toc H to win men's friendship, to help them think out for themselves the true meaning of Life, and, having found it in Christianity, to send them out into the world to forget about themselves in serving the needs of others.

In normal times the unit of Toc H is a small team of men who come together regularly to enjoy each other's friendship, to study the art of living, and to plan the use of their varied gifts in the service of God and their fellow men. As Talbot House in Flanders was Everyman's Club from 1915 to 1918, so Toc H to-day still offers a welcome to all who care to "drop in" to share its fellowship and join in its adventures.

Born in the last war, it reached its manhood on the eve of this, and is called once more to serve men's needs in every way it can; to give them the courage that is born of faith and a true and constant vision of our cause. We are striving, not merely for a world of prosperity and peace, but for one in which men seek to understand God's will—and to do it. "Except the Lord build the house, their labour is but vain that build it." Most of us are realising now how profoundly true that is.

One of the several ways in which Toc H is trying to win men's friendship and to serve their needs is by opening Services Clubs, not only for those in uniform, but also for others

employed on civil defence and on munitions. Starting in a small way these clubs have grown in number as the need has increased. To-day there are over 250 Toc H Services Clubs at home, Northern Ireland, and the Orkneys, and some 150 overseas, including Gibraltar, Cairo, Alexandria, Tel-a-viv, Baghdad and three at Malta which are playing an important part in the defence of that beleaguered stronghold. Nor must we forget the Toc H Houses with the B.E.F. in France whose Wardens are now in Ilag VIII because they chose to carry on with their jobs until it was too late to leave.

What is the aim of these clubs? Not just to hand out tea and buns or beds and breakfasts, but to serve men's inner needs and to give them friendship in its highest form. Nothing can take the place of home and family life, but we do try to recapture the spirit of both in the way in which we cater for men's varying needs.

Quiet and privacy are hard to find in service life. Toc H tries to provide for both wherever possible. Most clubs have their own small chapels. They are used regularly and stand as a reminder that "behind the ebb and flow of things temporal stand the eternal realities." Remembering that in war-time the mind has need of vitamins no less than the body, some clubs run discussion groups and debates.

In Reykjavik play-reading and gramophone recitals were most popular, while *Northern Light* was soon a best-seller amongst Service magazines in Icelandic circles. At St. Stephen's Club, at Westminster, the largest of our clubs at home, the Fireside Forum on Monday nights tries to look beyond the war

and plan the foundations of the new order we hope to build. Already we are agreed that while there may be need of a change of social or economic system, we need still more a faith to live by. And it is to help men seek that faith and pass it on that Toc H exists.

This short account of Toc H's activities in

war-time would be very incomplete without mention of its League of Women Helpers (the women's side of the movement) and tribute to the work L.W.H. is doing amongst women in the services on similar lines, and often more efficiently.

B. T. D.

THE ELDER BRETHREN

BARTLETT.—Killed in an air-raid on Bath on April 25, C. BARTLETT, a member of Twerton Branch. Elected 26.3.'40.

BROOKE.—Previously reported missing, now known to have been killed in action on May 23, Lieut. ROLLO SINCLAIR BROOKE, R.N., a member of the General Branch (formerly of Tunbridge Wells Branch). Elected 5.5.'28.

CAMPBELL.—On May 29, W. J. CAMPBELL, a member of Largs Group. Elected May, 1934.

CHORLEY.—Died as a Prisoner of War at Hong Kong on March 5, Pte. G. F. CHORLEY, Royal Scots. Elected 6.5.'36.

DEVITT.—Killed in action in April, Lieut. J. B. DEVITT, R.E., a member of Chelmsford Branch. Elected at Mark II, 4.10.'27.

FARMER.—On April 25, the Rev. FREDERICK RICHARD FARMER, Padre of Paddock Group, Huddersfield. Elected 24.10.'30.

HADFIELD.—In April, WILLIAM HADFIELD, of Chapel-en-le-Frith, a Builder in Notts and Derby Area since 1934.

HALDIN.—Killed in action, 2nd-Lieut. F. C. (Freddie) HALDIN, R.A., a former Treasurer of Croydon Branch. Elected 21.5.'36.

HARROP.—On May 17, GEORGE HARROP, former Secretary and Treasurer of Great Longstone Group. Elected 23.5.'34.

HOLMES.—Killed in a flying accident on May 20, in Georgia, U.S.A., GEOFFREY HOLMES, a member of Wakefield Branch. Elected May, '42.

JAMIESON.—On January 9, on active service, IAN JAMIESON, formerly Secretary of Paisley Branch. Elected June, 1940.

MACGILL.—Accidentally killed on Home Guard duty on May 19, IAN A. MACGILL, a member of Ripon Branch. Elected 18.4.'40.

MACKAY.—On January 7, ALEX. MACKAY, Treasurer of Paisley Branch. Elected September, 1933.

MACPHERSON.—Accidentally killed on active service, Sergt. D. J. ('DONNIE') MACPHERSON, R.A.F., late Secretary of Invergordon Group. Elected 7.7.'33.

MAKER.—On June 6, WALTER JOSEPH MAKER, a member of Roding Valley Branch. Elected 11.8.'40.

ROBSON.—On May 19, EDGAR ROBSON, Pilot of Stanley Branch. Elected 29.1.'35.

ROGERS.—In an air-raid, R. J. ROGERS, a member of Cudham Branch. Elected 1.5.'30.

RUGGLES-BRISE.—In May, Col. Sir EDWARD A. RUGGLES-BRISE, M.P., aged 60, a member from the Cavendish Association, 1922.

SAUNDERS.—On May 31, from wounds received in Crete, E. F. SAUNDERS. Elected 19.3.'30.

SHAW.—Killed in action in H.M.A.S. *Vampire* in April, Signaller ARNOLD SHAW, R.N., aged 29, a member of Luton Branch (formerly of Oldham). Elected 9.8.'33.

WATKINSON.—On January 11, JOHN EDWARD WATKINSON, Secretary of Borrowwash Group. Elected 20.11.'36.

WEATHERLEY.—Died suddenly, JAMES H. WEATHERLEY, Joint Secretary of Helston Branch. Elected 25.11.'39.

WHITWORTH.—On active service in May, Sergt.-Pilot CHARLES WHITWORTH, R.A.F., aged 28, a member of Shephed Group. Elected 31.7.'31.

WILLIAMS.—Killed in action on July 15, 1941, Sergt. R. E. G. WILLIAMS, R.A.F., formerly Secretary of Melksham Branch. Elected 22.3.'38.

WILSON.—On March 17, the Rev. WILLIAM SKINNER WILSON, Padre of Alloa Group. Elected 1.5.'36.

Correction: The date of J. S. WILKINSON's election to membership was 1927, not 1937, as printed in last month's JOURNAL.

AROUND THE MAP

A Christian Front

IT is strange that one of the most significant events of the past month has been, on the whole, little noticed by Christians in this country. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster met and signed a joint declaration—and it created much less interest than the periodical meetings of Hitler and Mussolini which aim at joint action, but with quite a different purpose. Dr. William Temple was spokesman for the Religion and Life Movement, in which the leaders of the Free Churches stand beside him on equal terms, and Cardinal Hinsley stood for the movement within the Roman Catholic Church known as The Sword of the Spirit. They left aside all questions of doctrine and Church order, ancient roots of quarrel, as irrelevant to the matter in hand—which was nothing less than the setting up of a united Christian 'front' in this country in face of the problems of the time and of the new world after the war. They pledged the use of all their forces to the building of a new social order on a Christian foundation, the only sure basis for a building which should replace the ruinous and bankrupt system of conduct which has landed us in all manner of injustice and waste of human lives, and finally in world-wide war. With truth the signatories proclaimed that such a declaration of united Christian purpose has no parallel since the Reformation.

The forces of Evil are usually better organised and more firmly entrenched, because more united, than the forces of Good. Against their sudden attacks and devastating conquests the Good Cause collapses in one place or fights back, heavily outnumbered, in another. Only by painful degrees does it mobilise its grand latent powers, close its divided ranks and face Evil with good hope of final success. No better example of this can be found than the present struggle and the long, uneasy years that, almost inevitably, have led up to it. Hitler, a man of one idea, has been able to drive wedges between people with conflicting ideas or no ideas in particu-

lar, and so to invade (if not subdue) a Continent, piecemeal. It even appears as if the nations of Europe would prefer to be devoured in detail than to swallow their own old enmities to one another in order to confront the common enemy with the only chance of victory. This miserable secret behind Hitler's success up to date is constantly repeated in Christian history. The strongest obstacle to the victory of the Church Universal has often been the disunity of the Churches themselves. Immense energy and bitterness have been spent on controversies trivial, even frivolous, in comparison with the grand task for which the Church was founded. In the confusion of the running fights in this kind of civil war within her own boundaries her true warfare for the Kingdom of God is not accomplished. And the plain man, who, deep down, knows his own need and longing for religion, finds more and more that he can't be bothered with the Churches which seem to him much more concerned with little domestic points, wrapped up in a peculiar jargon, than with helping him to find God. He does not hate the Church or fight it, he shrugs his shoulders and passes by. He does not find living easy, but the Church seems to have nothing much to say about the things which make up his life.

And here are the Churches in our land preparing to stand together in tackling precisely the problems of living which concern the plain man. He has not, in many cases, noticed their declaration nor will he, already disillusioned, pay attention until it issues in Christian action. What that action may be no one can yet foretell. But a big preliminary step has been taken in this joint declaration, and no Christian among us can afford to be so busy with the present that he cannot welcome and support such a hope for the future.

Don't forget to Listen!

A broadcast appeal for the Toc H War Services Fund will be made in 'The Week's Good Cause' at 8.40 p.m. on Sunday, August 2. The speaker will be Harry Willink, M.P., Chairman of Toc H.

Out of Iceland

It is now no military secret that United States troops have for some time been busy 'taking over' from the British Army in Iceland. And it is also no secret that our men are greatly relieved, not only in the military sense. You won't hear any regrets from soldiers who have worn the sign of the Polar Bear on their sleeves for so long. And now Toc H has pulled out with the troops, for the American Army has its own welfare organisation everywhere it goes and on a grand scale. Howard Dunnett, having disposed of the House at Reykjavik and its contents, reached home in the first week of June and will be posted elsewhere as soon as possible; Warwick Jackson, after a fine tour of duty there, is also back. But the venture will keep its place in Toc H history, and every day of it was worth while. Geoffrey Johnston was our pioneer, and Alec Churcher, up against the bleak conditions of our occupation, had full scope for his imaginative gifts. The true friendship of our little House, and all it offered in the way of discussion, music and drama, were needed and greatly welcomed. The success of the magazine, *Northern Light*, which Alec edited, was rapid and its fame reached as far as the Congress Library of the United States which asked for copies of its four issues. We could quote golden opinions about the House; we content ourselves with one quotation, from a letter from Sol Leventhal, a United States Marine, on his return to South Carolina:—

"Now my stay in Iceland is over, there were a few pleasant memories I was able to take back to America with me, and one of them was Toc H. There I found warmth and friendliness, and a different type of Englishman than I'd heard about. You know, of course, that you English are supposed to be a people without a real sense of humour. I found out different—it is a bit different from the American brand, but, once you get to know it, a real, nice friendly spirit."

Talbot House in India

The cable (printed here in May) from J. F. Ormiston, Chairman of the All-India Committee, announcing that the first Toc H Services Club in India was opening, has been followed by a letter from him, giving more details. He says that clubs for Bombay and

Rangoon were talked of, but finally they decided to open in Calcutta. The Metropolitan of India (the Bishop of Calcutta) has most generously lent his large house to Toc H, and it has been renamed 'Talbot House'; the address is 51, Chowringee, Calcutta. Hot meals, games, music, plenty of books and about 36 beds (used to capacity) are offered to Service men and, still more, the atmosphere of a 'home from home.' The Calcutta Branch Padre (Canon Walter Boulton) and his wife live in the House, 'Tosher' Elliot acts as Warden, and a rota of Calcutta members is on duty in the evenings. We have since heard that the Bishop of Calcutta still sleeps in the House—and has a spare bed in his room for a Service man. This first Toc H Services Club, opened on March 17, has thus made a good start. We all wish it well and hope it is the pioneer of other Clubs in India.

Our Prisoners-of-War

The following names are added to the list of our members known to be prisoners of war, bringing the total to 222:—

W. J. BATEMAN (Rfm., K.R.R.C.; 'Interested'), No. 31194, Stalag XXI A (GYMO).

P. CAMERON (Cpl., Cameron Hdrs.; 'Interested'), No. 20892, Stalag XXI A (GYMO).

W. E. CODMAN (Cpl., Norfolk Regt.; 'Interested'), No. 9520, Stalag XXI A (GYMO).

B. FRANCIS (Pte., R. Worcester Regt.; 'Interested'), No. 7682, Stalag XXI A (GYMO).

C. HAMERSMA (Pte., R.A.M.C.; Services Br.), Polytechnic School, Athens.

F. A. JUDD (2nd. Lieut., Argyll & Sutherland Hdrs.; Leamington Spa Br.), P.G. 78, P.M. 3300, Italy.

G. RYDER (L/Cpl., R.C.S.; Oflag VI B Gr.), No. 1881, Oflag VI B.

M. C. SERRES (Pte., R.A.M.C.), No. 23888, Stalag VIII B.

W. STOREY (Fus., Lancashire Fusiliers; 'Interested'), No. 30820, Stalag XXI A (GYMO).

J. YOUNG (Capt., R.A.S.C.; Oflag VI B Gr.), No. 3697, Oflag VI B.

Additional Details.

Dr. T. C. EDWARDS' regiment is R.A., his number is 14409 (see March JOURNAL).

Sergt. C. W. H. HICKS' address is Hôpital Militaire, Caserta (see June JOURNAL).

Lt.-Col. C. LISTER's regiment is Northampton's, his number is 46 (see April JOURNAL).

E. POWELL's rank is Pte., his regiment is R. Berks. (see June JOURNAL).

Pte. J. STOKOR's regiment is Black Watch (see June JOURNAL).



A Group at Home

Toc H units have met on the queerest premises at home and abroad, ashore and afloat, but they do not often have the luck to occupy so charming a home as Yapton Group in Hants. We show a picture of it here to make others envious—for instance, some reader in a sandstorm in the Western Desert! 'Rose Cottage' is an old smuggler's home, over 200 years old. Its thatch covers three rooms and a kitchen; a bathroom was built on four years ago. The rooms, you may guess, are small. The main one, about 11 ft. each way, holds a small billiard table, the meeting room—slightly smaller—has been known to contain the equivalent of two cricket teams, but is up-to-date with a lantern screen for talks. The quiet room, though it measures only 8 ft. x 7ft. 6ins., has a tiny organ and has been dedicated as a chapel—*Multum in parvo*. Can you beat it? If you can, send the Editor a photograph or drawing of your 'exhibit,' whether exterior or interior.

Service to the Services

We have already suggested that every unit of Toc H ought to make its existence and its time and place of meeting known for the benefit of all Service men stationed away from home or on a visit to a strange place. A notice at the town hall, post office, police station or bank seemed to be a simple channel of information. Now some further suggestions about meeting the needs of Service men and women reach us. The Southern London Area Executive raise two points. They write:

(a) Large numbers of serving men (and women, let us add) are continuing their professional studies, and it would be a great help to many of those whose billets, etc. do not offer the necessary accommodation if Toc H members would discover people prepared to offer the use of 'quiet rooms' for study.

(b) Wives, parents and friends of Service men often visit their husbands, sons or sweethearts in their hours off duty. Toc H could help in two ways, by discovering people prepared (i) to give accommodation for a night or so to an occasional visitor, and (ii) to allow the use of a room for a few hours during the day-time or evening where Service men or women and their relations can chat in privacy and comfort.

From a member of Salcombe Branch comes this further suggestion:—

At a meeting of his Branch "all members were asked to put a little notice 'Toc H,' either on their gates or in their windows, arranged so that it was readable at all times. We explained to the troops present that wherever this notice appeared they could count on neighbourly help, e.g. if they needed information, advice, use of a telephone, etc."

"Two nights after I carried this out myself," he goes on, "a strange soldier came in and asked my help. He explained that he had recently come here and had three weeks in which to rush through certain training. I found myself writing out the Morse code and teaching him Semaphore—in fact we spent most of the evening practising. He was very pleased and went off happy."

This correspondent suggests that H.Q. should produce suitable cards for windows and weatherproof signs for gates ("silver paper or glass is visible at night"), bearing simply the words 'Toc H,' for sale to members who took up the idea. "It would help your funds," he says, "and it would set a standard of helpfulness to the community." It is worth considering—if there is a demand, and that we cannot tell unless others tell us. What do you think about it?

The Desert blossoms

In the April JOURNAL we quoted from a letter of Alan Cowling in which he rejoiced that there was "no end to the Groups, Circles, Wings, call them what you will, which have sprung up in the name of Toc H in the Middle East." A letter from Flight Sergt. J. Trickey, since received, illustrates this:—

"Toc H in the Middle East," he writes, "is growing apace, and many of the new units are, I believe, unknown to you at home. That of SHALLUFA (of which he is Secretary) has been going and growing since September. During the first few months we were handicapped by the lack of members—just two of us, John Shepley of Yorks, and myself of Toc H, Ottery St. Mary, Devon" (lately they have been reinforced by members from Liverpool, Glasgow, Hampstead, Worthing and Ismailia)... "On the occasion of our Guest Nights we invariably have representatives from Toc H KABRIT AND SHANDUR (combined Group), ATAKA (Army) Toc H and the local GENERAL HOSPITAL Group which has recently got under way... Our probationers are extremely keen, and as some have to leave rather suddenly after being in the Group, we have signed for them a Toc H Pass, hoping that when they once again set foot in England they may use their cards to good advantage and find Toc H wherever they may go."

And here is L.A.C. Ron Alcock describing, in two airgraphs to his Home Branch, how it all happened in his case. He is serving on the Sick Quarters Staff in Egypt.

"This is to let you and my friends in Ruislip Toc H know all about the new unit that we have started out here in the Desert. I have missed Toc H very much since I came out here and have always hoped that somehow a Branch could be started in this area. One day I was sitting at my desk at the Sick Quarters office when a new O.D. Padre, whom I had not met before, blew in to make enquiries about one of our patients. We got into conversation and I discovered that he was full of enthusiasm for a new Toc H Branch which he was getting under way at an adjacent camp. I immediately offered my services and it was not long before he had contacted a small but eager band of fellow-members. We had a preliminary meeting on Monday night and on Thursday we had our first full meeting."

He describes the meeting, at which he was made host, in the new stone building of the Y.M.C.A. Padre Sutcliffe explained Toc H and took 'Light,' an American was the speaker of the evening, one of Tubby's friends from Orkney was made Pilot and Alcock himself Secretary.

In his second airgraph he describes their twelfth meeting, when the new unit had met its early troubles, changed its committee and was settling down to its jobs—no easy task under the conditions of the Service and of the place. He makes an interesting comment at the end:—

"We are still struggling to create a true atmosphere, but this is difficult when we often get up to fifteen strangers at a meeting. There is a school of thought here which favours a restricted attendance in order to preserve this atmosphere, but I argue that Toc H has been far too smug in the past and we must certainly welcome all comers now."

This opinion, we believe, finds a good many echoes at Home.

Toc H in Troopships

We have recorded a number of instances of how Toc H meetings can help to relieve the tedium of long voyages on troopships, provided some member on board will take the plunge and invite his fellow travellers to come together. Many cases are now on record—and doubtless there are many of which we have heard nothing. Here is another instance, of which we receive news in a letter from Pilot-Officer R. D. Tallowin, now stationed

in Cyprus. He sends us this photograph of the 'temporary Group' on board H.M. Transport B.22, and says:—

"A notice was put up on the notice-boards on each mess-deck by me that meetings would be held every Tuesday evening, and I thought we might get about half a dozen attending—instead of which 32 turned up the first night and we averaged 30 for the rest of the journey. Talks were given by the three Toc H members on such subjects as the Four Points, Main Resolution and Symbol of Light, followed by an outsider who spoke on any subject he liked; discussions followed both talks. Light was taken by one of the members with an improvised candlestick and candle, followed by prayers. The three members were myself (Norwich Branch), Sergt. S. A. Hendra (Truro Branch) and A.C.I. H. C. G. Mowbray." *(Tallwin is seen in officer's hat in the front row of the picture, with Mowbray on his right and Hendra on his left.)* "The meetings were very helpful and we got to know each other better; the non-members were enthused and several enquired how they could join. I am sure most of them will get in touch with Toc H, if not now, when they return to England."



He made contact, wherever he could, with Toc H units on his route:—

"I also visited members of Durban Toc H. They are struggling along with a few members, others having joined the Forces. The few that are left are doing great work for the troops and deserve much praise.

"Another Branch I visited was the one in Cairo and was pleased to meet Dickie Dines, late of Malta. . . Toc H Cairo is doing great work; they have a lovely House. . . There must be thousands who are finding there that peace of mind and soul the same as those men did during the last war at Pop."

Finally, he gives us news of a little-known unit:—

"In Cyprus there is at least one place where Toc H meetings are held every week, and that is Nicosia. Meetings are held on Sunday evenings, followed by a short service in the Chapel. The Chapel was dedicated on Sunday, January 11, by the Bishop of Jerusalem (Dr. Graham Brown). The membership is growing."

* * * *

Experiences on the voyage and on arrival were the same, with a difference, in the case

of Sidney Pepper who exchanged a seat on our Central Executive last year for the rank of Trooper in an Armoured Car squadron. In a long letter from the Middle East to the Hon. Administrator he tells of *his* first meeting on board ship. He first made contact with a Church of Scotland padre whose touch with Toc H had begun and ended with a chat with Tubby on board a ship in the Orkneys. Through him he was able to approach the Adjutant and got a notice in orders. He says:

"By chance I heard that on a certain mess-deck some bloke was visiting each table and asking if there were any interested in Toc H. Needless to say, I soon made contact, and found the enquirer was none other than Ernie Johnson of Ayr. As by this time we had both collected a few potentials, we tried a meeting. There not being a square inch of space on deck, we had to descend to subtlety. Having decided on a spot, we waited for one fellow to move and then bagged his space, continued this process until we were strong enough to request stragglers to move back, and so the first meeting was held—12 in all, of whom 10 were newcomers to Toc H. It was a grand start, and Ernie and I were questioned at length."

He got his first shore leave on South Africa soon after this. He goes on:—

"I made straight away for the Toc H Rest Room, which I found was being run by L. W. H. What a home atmosphere was to be found in that room! These charming ladies found time to chat with everyone who came in, promised to write to mother, wife or sweetheart, and provided an excellent meal *free*. I put in a four-hour session there, chatting to the lads as they came in and to their hostesses."

He had time to meet Elsie Potter (General Secretary, L.W.H., Southern Africa) and the members of the Toc H Executive just before its meeting. Back on board again, they tried another meeting:—

"This time we received 24 names, a fine mixture of officers, N.C.O.'s and men, of whom only a few were actually members. Apart from Johnson and myself there were Tpr. W. G. Farmer (West Midlands), Sergt. 'Jumbo' Evans (Sevenoaks), Sergt. Heiden (Singapore), Spr. Famington (Twickenham). . . We managed three meetings, squatting on the deck, with tea and bread and butter. Two padres, C. of S. and C. of E., joined us. It was a little bit of home to the members, and the new boys showed great enthusiasm.

"On the last morning of the voyage we met at 6.45 a.m. in the Officers' Dining Room and gave thanks for our safe arrival. Johnson took 'Light' with the aid of a small piece of candle I had left from a guard, held upright by the blade of a pocket-knife. The C. of E. padre (who had met Toc H with us on the boat for the first time) took prayers. No member of this little Group will ever forget that simple service."

After describing a visit to Talbot House, Cairo ("What a House! It would be impossible to imagine a House run better, under the superb leadership of Gordon Turvey"), he looks ahead to the next stage. For the end of a troopship's voyage has but marked

the beginning of adventure in Toc H for many a new member already.

"Toc H has simply swept the Middle East Forces area. . . I am just beginning to hear from the new boys, whom I left when we disembarked, and they are joining up with the nearest 'Circle.' Some have already contacted Talbot House and left me their new addresses. . ."

We must be ready for these new members when they come home.

Hope from Singapore

Last month we reported that 'Gerry' Chambers, formerly Padre of the Southern Area, was missing at Singapore. Mrs. Chambers has since received a cheering letter from Western Australia from the Assistant Chaplain General, who was ordered to leave a few hours before the place surrendered. He writes:

"I saw your husband alive and well two days before the fall of Singapore. He was ministering to the wounded in a hospital which had been set up in the Cathedral. I think he is pretty sure to be safe. . . He was doing very good work and is a splendid Padre."

Gerry's many friends in Toc H will be glad of this news, which Mrs. Chambers says has "heartened her tremendously."

A SMALL BOY'S CONFIDENCE

Field Marshal the EARL OF CAVAN, a Foundation Member and a Vice-President of Toc H, sends this charming reminiscence of himself as a small boy and Tubby's mother.

IT must have been about the year 1872 that my mother and I paid a visit to Tubby's grandmother at Fromefield House, Somerset. Tubby's mother, known to me as "Cousin Isabel," wore a bronze-coloured dress with black trimming, which has stuck in my memory for the following reason.

While we were at luncheon a telegram came to say that my grandfather was dangerously ill in Hertfordshire. Mother instantly arranged a cab to take us to Frome station; Cousin Isabel came with us. I remember their words to the stationmaster: "It's a matter of life and death." An express was stopped and Cousin Isabel waved us goodbye, still wearing her bronze dress. At Swindon mother got out to get two cups of tea, leaving me in the carriage. The train went on without her!

I was seven years old. To this day I remember the agony of loneliness and the dread of arrest because I had no ticket; but somehow I thought Cousin Isabel would put things right: quite illogical, but that was my feeling.

Paddington next stop. On arrival I sat still, hoping and praying mother would come for me. After a while the guard came and miraculously said, "Are you the little boy whose mother was left behind at Swindon?"

"I don't know where it was, but she was left behind," I said. "There's a lady in a bronze dress at Frome who knows."

Curious that my trust in Tubby's mother should be the foretaste of the faith that so many of Toc H repose in him!

Two hours' later my own beloved mother joined me in the stationmaster's office.

CAVAN.

THE KING'S BUSINESS

A talk by the Secretary of the Northern Area here reaches print.

THE end of the war still seems far off and no man can foresee in what sort of world we shall find ourselves when the fighting is over. So we fall back upon our fortitude and, as Christians, upon our faith. But we need more than blind faith—"maximum war effort" is shouted at us daily. Indeed, there still seem to be plenty of people who imagine they can win the war by chalking the letter 'V' on other people's property. Private and personal self-interest are still allowed to impede production, for example, on a large scale.

Two Faces

It appears as though our country has two faces. On the one hand, there is that resolution, courage and steadiness in face of imminent danger which, in the eyes of an American writer, have raised "the very stature of the race." There is a humorous but typical example of this in the old lady living in a blitzed area, whose friends were trying to persuade her to move into the country. They asked if she were not frightened when bombs fell around her. "No," she replied, "I'm not frightened. I gets my Bible, and I reads a chapter or two, and then I puts it back and ses 'To 'ell with the lot of 'em! ' and I goes to bed." On the other hand, we have not yet got rid of the best-known characteristic of the ostrich. We still do not want to be disturbed. Many of us are still mainly concerned about our rights, never having accepted that rights carry responsibilities with them. In the factories and shipyards there is still too much talk of "What we won't do," rather than "What can we do?"

I believe that Toc H can, and does, help in these things. Its members at least possess a sense of responsibility; most of them carry to their war jobs an alert mind and a broad outlook. But the second of the two faces is still worn by some of us, who seem to lack that sense of urgency, in regard to Toc H and its opportunities, which is lacking in other places in regard to the war effort. It

does not come easily to us, for as a race we are not easily excited. *The Times* Correspondent, in his much-discussed dispatch on the fall of Singapore, remarked that a spirit of energy and a certain ruthlessness must be restored to our administration if our Empire is to continue to play a worthy part in the world's affairs. I believe this is equally true of Toc H.

As a matter of fact, the ostrich is a very sensible bird; there is nothing you can do to check a sandstorm. But it is no sandstorm which Toc H is facing. A fight against odds, indeed, but one in which our faith keeps away the sense of frustration, of hopeless battling against overwhelming force. So it is our faith of which we must first be certain. We must re-think our fundamental values, not only for ourselves, but for the society of the future to which we wish those values to be applied. For instance, we can hardly be satisfied with the use (or rather mis-use) which man has so far made of scientific discovery and invention. We live in a Machine Age, the standards of which are based largely on material values.⁽¹⁾ We shall not be alone in this kind of thinking. "Post-war Planning" is the fashion just now. But what is needed is not primarily, programmes, but a faith on which programmes may be built, and which shall provide the motive-power of a saner world.

The Eternal Realities

I wonder what your definition is of those Eternal Realities mentioned in our Main Resolution? Dr. Oldham attempted one recently (without reference to Toc H) in the *Christian News-Letter*. He said that the Eternal Realities of life are *God; Nature; Persons; Society*, and *Christ*. His argument in support is worth more than a moment's thought.⁽²⁾ We may not all agree with him; but each of us should have some definition and we are not likely to differ greatly on essentials. It is the clearing of our minds which matters—perhaps Mr. Mumford can also help us here.⁽³⁾ And when we have

cleared our minds and got our "Faith for Living" firmly fixed, we can pass it on where it is most needed—to the mind of Youth.⁽¹⁾ That is, perhaps, the supreme opportunity of Toc H to-day. The need of the Church for whatever part members can take in it, stands clearly out as another.

Spreading Toc H

There is a further direction in which I believe we need a sense of urgency, and that is the spreading of enthusiasm for Toc H itself. Circumstances may have changed since our movement was founded, but the nature of its job remains the same. In essence, this is still with the individual—the old catchword "TO CHange chaps" still holds goods. Post-war planning (from our viewpoint) is secondary to this. We have certain special methods: to bring together, in each family of Toc H, a mixture of men; to give personal service; to think things out, bringing the expert to the group when necessary, that the truth may prevail; deliberately to seek the will of Christ in the solution of all problems; to express our Christianity, day by day, in terms of the Four Points of the Compass. We have a special way of dealing with money, treating it not as a necessary nuisance, but simply as one of the factors in our lives. These things we believe to be useful. For this reason, and only for this reason, we want to spread Toc H. In this light, all our activities—meetings, jobs, the Services Clubs, the campaign for revenue for the War Services Fund, and all the rest—take their place in true perspective.

Within the greater struggle, conservatism in England is fighting a losing battle with the elements of progress. The same contrast is to be seen within Toc H. Old units are recovering the spirit of adventure. There is more readiness to make experiments, to take advantage, for example, of all the fresh con-

tacts which participation of members in Civil Defence has given us. There is increased initiative, more imagination. But still there are too many lost opportunities, too much lack of vision. Instead of eagerly grasping every new means of spreading Toc H, some units still cling subconsciously to the old meetings and jobs of their peace-time life. In these, lack of imagination remains as their chief bugbear. For instance, the visitor, although he receives a warm welcome, goes away unsatisfied, because no one has troubled to find out his inner need. As a consequence, many members in the Services fail to grasp their opportunity; bereft of the normal life of their units, they are at a loss, so they put Toc H activities into cold storage for the duration. Their chance to spread Toc H is the finest they will ever have, for they are meeting on terms of fellowship all sorts and conditions of men, whom they would never have met if they had remained at home.

It is recorded of David, on the occasion when he ate the shewbread, that he afterwards asked for a sword. "For," said he, "I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste." I am afraid he was stretching a point, since at that time he was in fact fleeing from the king's wrath. But we might, perhaps, borrow David's saying for a while. In Toc H we believe, in all humility, that we are the King's servants; and now, to my mind, the King's business indeed requires haste.

MAYNE ELSON.

REFERENCES.

- (1) An interesting study of this subject is to be found in *Technics and Civilisation*, by Lewis Mumford (Routledge).
- (2) C. N.-L. From 21, Northmoor Road, Oxford. 4d. post free.
- (3) Lewis Mumford: *Faith for Living* (Secker & Warburg).
- (4) See *The Service of Youth* (I), TOC H JOURNAL, Sept., 1941, p. 133.

Congratulations

Our honours list is still very incomplete, but here are two additions. Lieut. DAVID S. APPS, R.N., a former hosteller of Mark I, now in Ceylon, has received the O.B.E. for gallantry in mines' disposal. THOMAS OLDICORN, a Foundation Member and Chairman of Penrith Branch, was awarded the King's Police and Fire Services Medal, in the recent Birthday Honours, for distinguished service in the Police.

A SAILOR'S LAMENT

AS 1940 wore to its conclusion, friends of the Fleet began to rub their eyes. Strange shapes appeared at Scapa, without comments; for comment in those parts on new arrivals is contrary to war-time etiquette, and names are mentioned in an undertone. Most of us thus were silently aware that there had come into their first commissions an expedited series of King's ships, with rainbow suitings. One of them at least rode at her moorings cheerfully disguised like a Neapolitan ice. Paint is strange stuff; you would have judged that with the sober background provided by the islands in the Flow, dark and drab colouring would prove superior. But the reverse was true, at least in daylight; and the most monstrous colour schemes became deceptive and evasive at a distance. Ships assumed shapes fantastic to the eye, and modestly concealed their clean-cut lines.

In one such ship I came across a member, a very senior rating nowadays, who picked up Toc H interests in Ceylon many years back, when on the East Indies station. In those more leisured days, much interchange occurred between shore-members at Colombo and Naval ratings based upon Ceylon. Strong and abiding friendship in high places insured this usefulness upon both sides. Was not Colombo dowered with a Chief of Police, the chairman of Toc H, who was a tower of strength to C.'s-in-C.? So Toc H had its chance, and prospered greatly.

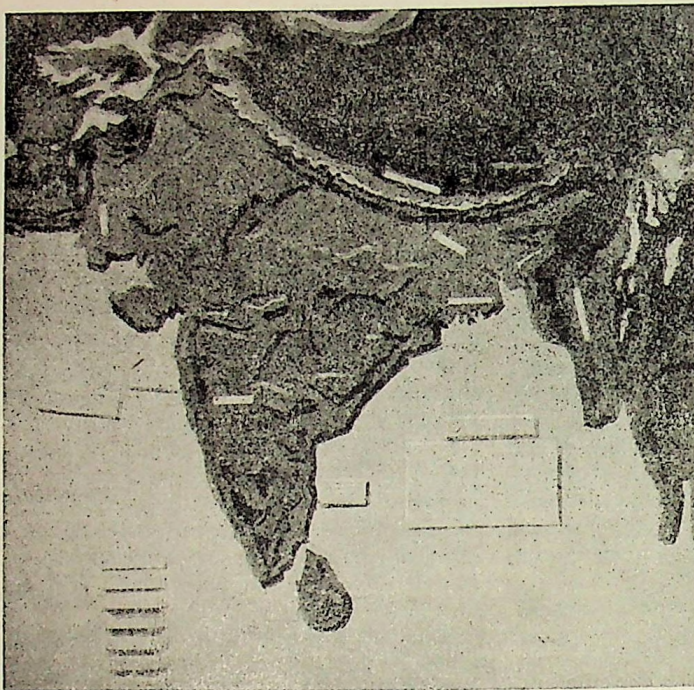
Round at Trincomalee, the Naval members coming ashore laid aside no ambition, but actually constructed a small fleet of wheel-chairs and under-carriages for stretchers for use by the local hospital. Nay, more than that; for the Wesleyan Church had set its heart upon the erection of an imported organ, which long languished mute in its packing case; some parts were missing. Now Naval men are not, without exception, convinced Wesleyans. But they liked the padre, and felt his deprivation was their own. Need it then be endured, when hands were willing and extra "make and mends" could be secured? So the Wesleyan Church to its sur-

prise found that the organ was unpacked, revealed, set up in its appointed place, made shipshape, and supplemented freely with gadgets constructed out of Admiralty materials. Tradition says that organ pipes were made. I don't believe a word of it myself.

The Map-makers

Having got steam up now inside both boilers, this Toc H team looked for fresh fields of conquest. Round at Colombo they were introduced to a Blind Home—a Mission enterprise—inhabited by children (Ceylonese). Helping this Mission had been from the first a Toc H job: the sailors fought for it, greatly preferring visits to the Home to any of the normal modes of pleasure. Friendships here formed suggested in their turn that small and sightless eyes would be tear-stained when the ships left upon their annual cruise. Why not then leave behind a lasting token of their attachment to their little hosts? H.M.S. *Hawkins* thereupon decided to make a map, and a pretentious one. Maps normally necessitate good eyesight; but with cut cardboard, glued layer upon layer and fashioned with sharp blades, much can be done. It started with Ceylon, whereon Nuwara Eliya became a knobby peak small fingers climbed. At a due distance came the foot of India, and children caroled when they found Bombay; then the Sind desert, which God made with sand far from glued down, the sailors much improved. The sand was anchored in its plastic setting; while to the right the Himalayas soared. Ever since then Paymaster Branch Whitehall have wondered why in 1933, C.-in-C. East Indies Station ran out of cardboard. Should he be surcharged?

Nor were the sailors even now content; for when I called in 1934 upon the *Dorsetshire* then at Capetown station, *Hawkins* lay hard by. The *Dorsetshire* was doubtful of Toc H, and with good reason; for a local zealot had managed to secure a five-pound note out of the pocket of the Flagship's Chaplain. But *Hawkins* men were genuine enough. They were permitted, as a mark of favour, to lay



The Sailors' Map of India.

their hobby, for both ships' inspection, even upon the Quarterdeck itself. It was approved, as it indeed deserved. What was their hobby? It was built in sections, forming a contour map of the East Coast with Madagascar and Mauritius, all strongly made, apt to be crawled upon. Blind children in the Mission at Colombo are thus informed by Touch and by Toc H. 'Toc H' is "touch" if "you" are added to it.

Gallant Grievance

I have been led back from the ship at Scapa, wherein I met an old friend from the *Hawkins*. He had a grievance (sailors with grievances are not unknown). What do you think it was? Where the shoe pinched with

him was rather odd. After the Map was made and was presented, he had been recommissioned in Home waters. But he had not forgotten his small friends. So he took up with Braille in his spare time, and wrote them letters. As a *tour de force*, he started—in 1937 I think it was—on Braille Translations into the vernacular, which he had taught to them! This was his sea-time hobby. He put in, week after week, with a Braille typewriter. During the War, he had continued thus, since Hitler could not shake his old allegiance. But he had now been told—*this* was his grievance—that Admiralty censorship Department could not read through his Braille in the vernacular, and that it therefore could not reach Ceylon. He had no other grievance in the world.

When I left him, I wondered in my heart if Dr. Goebbels were confronted with the full facts, what would be his rejoinder. Here was a man, so level, so efficient, trained to a tee, with a long sea career, who thought so little of this Armageddon that he declined to alter by a hairsbreadth the philanthropic work he undertook. He would discharge his duties naturally. But by a second and a higher nature he would not weary on his watch below from the long labour he had set himself, lest a new generation of blind Ceylonese children should think the War had taken him from them.

P. B. C.

A Tailpiece for Pessimists

" If England was what England seems
An' not the England of our dreams,
But only putty, brass, an' paint,
'Ow quick we'd drop 'er!—But she ain't! "

B.E.L.R.A.

FROM time to time we are able to give news of our members working with the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association in West and East Africa. Their war-time services are thus summed up in the Annual Report of 'Belra,' recently published:

Toc H Lay Workers. Previous reports have shown the valuable and self-sacrificing work done by these devoted volunteers under the scheme initiated by the Founder Padre of Toc H seven years ago. The first casualty occurred in April, 1941, when Frank Bye was killed at sea by enemy action when on his way home for his second furlough. Mr. Bye was a keen and valued worker and the loss of his services was a severe one. The Admiralty generously released Bruce Lansdown from naval sick bay work to take Mr. Bye's place and thus the number of these workers has been maintained at the figure reported last year of fourteen, though this represents a considerable reduction, due to war service, on the pre-war strength. The names and stations of the men are given below.

NIGERIA. *Ilu*: Hamish MacGregor, Douglas Coffin, Clem Wills; *Oji River*: Len Parker, Bruce Lansdown, W. R. G. Willett; *Uzuakoli*: William Walter, Fred Tuck, Lawrence Dalton, Norman Crayford; *Zaria*: Lawrence Birnbaum.

SUDAN. *Lui*: Jack Sowden.

TANGANYIKA. *Makete*: William Lambert; *Morogoro*: Kenneth Goddard.

In previous reports short accounts of the duties discharged by the individual workers were given, but this year it must suffice to say that these have been of a most varied character and included the planning of villages, erecting of houses and the making of roads and bridges, engineering work and the provision of electric light and power, experimental agriculture and farming, soap making and other cottage industries, the organising and running of scouts and occupational therapy, vocational teaching in schools, cinema shows, store keeping and dispensing, office work and management, account keeping and finance, in addition to the giving of injections and other minor medical or surgical treatment.

In last month's JOURNAL we quoted from a letter from Bill Lambert about his job at Makete. A letter from the District Commissioner to the Provincial Commissioner of the Southern Highlands Province of Tanganyika sets an official seal on Bill Lambert's modest narrative:—

"As a result of a two day visit to Makete Leper Settlement you will be interested to hear of the progress that has been seen by me. Mr. Lambert has now been in direct charge of the settlement since July, 1941, and the finances have been controlled by me.

"I took the opportunity of visiting most of the settlement and the change that has taken place

since the reorganization is astonishing. What struck me most was the change in the disposition of these wretched people. Now they are all cheerful and have an added interest in life. No longer do they sit idle at home bemoaning their misfortune. Mr. Lambert has instilled new life into the Colony and they all look on him as their benefactor. Many have been given work, with the result that the roads are kept scrupulously clean for a very small cost. One makes motor car tyre sandals for the people, another is a rough carpenter who has been given odd jobs, others are made to build new houses when necessary, being assisted with bamboos or grass. Nearly all cultivate.

"This indeed was another point that struck me forcibly—the increased cultivation. Over 100 hoes have been loaned to lepers and it is proposed to buy another hundred immediately. There are two communal *shambas* that I saw, one of rice and one of cassava. I advised Mr. Lambert on several points of agriculture and it was decided (1) that the cultivation of hill rice be discouraged owing to the exhaustion; (2) that groundnuts be encouraged and more seed provided. Those already supplied planted are now making an excellent showing; (3) that no new coffee trees be planted; (4) in some cases anti-soil erosion measures are not completely carried out and an Agricultural Instructor will be sent to assist Mr. Lambert in this matter; (5) attention will be paid to Mosaic diseases in cassava. Certain types seem to be more resistant and experiments to see if this is so will be carried out.

"A third thing noticed by me was the general improvement in cleanliness. Not only are roads swept but nearly every house has now a decent pit latrine with a covered top. These have all been made by the lepers themselves.

"In conclusion, I am glad to report that non-leper families have all been moved out. Applications from new settlers have been considerable and there is not room for many new families. These facts are in themselves a testimony to Mr. Lambert's tact and devotion."

Carry on!

The Annual General Meeting of 'Belra' was held in London on June 12, with Lord Moyne in the chair. The most outstanding news concerned the leper colony at Sungei Buloh in Malaya, one of the finest in the world, where Dr. Gordon A. Ryrie had remained at his post during the fighting and had now been requested by the Japanese to carry on his work. Articles about Sungei Buloh, with letters from Dr. Ryrie, appeared in this JOURNAL in February, March, August and December, 1933, and were the earliest 'propaganda' for Toc H leprosy work, first mooted in that year.

TUBBY AND THE TANKERS

Members will be sorry to hear that TUBBY had to go to hospital in New York in April for a small operation from which he is now completely recovered. It meant, however, the cancellation or postponement of a projected visit to the Southern States. He went to Cooperstown, New York, for "a week of happy convalescence" and on arrival wrote a letter to the local newspaper, The Otsego Farmer, from which we quote the following.

MY mind is more than constantly concerned with the hard times which my beloved shipmates have lately been having in the battle of the Atlantic, especially along your Eastern Coast. I am really thoroughly ashamed to be away from them for the time being; but it cannot be helped. When I leave here I shall take back with me your prayers for them in the performance of their arduous duties. What are these duties? I am here as Chaplain to what is called the British Tanker Fleet. Let me here add a word or two about them in order to enlist your understanding.

In World War I, twenty-five years ago, a number of the ships were coal-burning; to-day the coal-burning ships have disappeared and almost everything which moves at sea employs the energy of fuel oil. War in the air is utterly dependent on the supplies of aviation spirit; war upon land—completely mechanised—depends upon the supplies of gasoline. So that all ships, all air planes, all tanks, are so much junk if those supplies break down. Thus, tanker fleets are terribly important. Nothing has been more grave in 1942 than the loss of Allied oil fields in the Far East, now followed by the loss of the extensive fields beyond Rangoon. Russian supplies are in their battle zone, but in the Middle East we still retain the precious fields in Iran and Iraq. If these were lost—and they are gravely threatened—the Allied cause would suffer a disaster of the utmost magnitude. The problem is not one for us alone, since Germany is faced with a like shortage.

As everybody knows, the main supplies of the three motive oils and the refineries, no less essential for their preparation, are on the East and West coastlines of America. Plans prior to the war for bringing northwards adequate quantities of oil by pipeline, remained mere plans and were not carried through. Thus

it has come to be that the oil centres along the tanker ports and on the islands of the Caribbean have become battlegrounds of great intensity where the Allies have lost in a few months freighters and tankers they cannot afford. These are the grave facts of the situation, which we must face and somehow overcome. Europe cannot be freed nor Japan beaten unless, and until, those losses are made good and the sea routes secured in both East and West.

My task is with the officers and crew who operate the British Tanker Fleet. I came out in a tanker last December, went to Aruba, and then through the Panama up to San Pedro and to San Francisco. Thence my dear ship went on to the Far East, but I went up and down the Western Coast in order to build up near tanker ports some little groups of quiet, friendly folk who would most gladly open up their homes in order to provide a happy welcome for future personnel of the British tankers, when they called in to pick up their dangerous cargoes. Tankers are not like ordinary freighters. The men do not have the free time when in port, for they must be on duty superintending the loading and discharging of their vessels, and in a few hours put to sea again. Their movements are, of course, highly confidential, and preparations cannot thus be made. The most that they can hope for in a port is for a few hours prior to their sailing. These they would like to spend in quiet homes where they can feel that they are welcome guests. My complicated task on the East Coast is therefore to obtain at no great distance from tanker ports and shore-side installations groups of such friendly homes as they require.

(He went on to appeal for comforts for the tanker men and to announce that he would preach in Cooperstown on the following Sunday).